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Best in Australia

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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

Boskovic makes history

SAIGON — Top Sydney referee, Tony Boskovic, last Sunday became the first Australian to ever referee an international match in Asia.

Boskovic, who accompanied the Australian team to the Saigon Tournament, refereed the Group "B" match between South Korea and Hong Kong.

The previous day, on Saturday, Boskovic officiated as linesman in the Malaysia v. Thailand match, also a Group "B" fixture.

His firm handling created a tremendous impression here and he is favored to referee the final — if Australia fails to qualify.

**We play
early
on Sat.**

SAIGON — The following matches remain to be played in the Saigon Tournament:

Friday, November 10:
South Vietnam v. New Zealand (Group "A") 9.30 p.m.; Hong Kong v. Thailand (Group "B") 11.15 p.m.

Saturday, November 11:
Australia v. Singapore (Group "A") 4.30 p.m.; South Korea v. Malaysia (Group "B") 6.15 p.m.

Sunday, November 12:
Semifinals 4.30 and 6.15 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14:
Play-off and final, 4.30 and 6.15 p.m.

All times given are Australian Eastern Time — two hours ahead of Saigon time.

AUSSIES LEADING

Results to date in the Saigon Tournament:

Group "A": South Vietnam v. Singapore 2-0; Australia v. New Zealand 5-3; Australia v. South Vietnam 1-0.

Group "B": South Korea v. Hong Kong 1-0; Malaysia v. Thailand 3-2; South Korea v. Thailand 3-1.

At press time the results of Wednesday's New Zealand v. Singapore and Malaysia v. Hong Kong games were not known.

Group Standings

"A": Australia 4 pts., South Vietnam 2, New Zealand, Singapore 0 (New Zealand and Singapore played one match less).

"B": South Korea 4 pts., Malaysia 2, Thailand, Hong Kong 0 (Malaysia and Hong Kong have a match in hand).



AUST. SCORE HEROIC WIN

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Wednesday. — Australian soccer passed its stiffest international test to date in beating South Vietnam 1-0 last night.

The Australian team had to overcome a foursome hurdle, any one of which could have proved fatal.

The match was played in absolutely stifling heat, when even to bend over to tie your shoelaces results in a flood of perspiration.

Secondly, they played in front of a loudly partisan, capacity crowd of 30,000, hungry for victory. None hungrier, it seemed, than Vietnam's vice-president, Ky, who even visited his team at halftime, demanding a better effort.

Thirdly, Australia faced a very determined, very skilful and fit team in the Vietnamese.

And fourthly, Malaysia's ace referee, N. F. Nice, wasn't very nice at all to our team.

Everything seemed in apple pie order in the first half when the comparatively fresh Aussies, using their physical advantage, dominated the game.

In the first 20 minutes, both Baartz and Abonyi had narrow misses which would have wrapped up the game.

Finally, in the 35th minute, a well-deserved break came our way as Warren swooped on a loose ball and slammed it home from 15 yards.

One minute later, it was almost 2-0: Westwater beat two men, lobbed the ball to Abonyi, but his header was miraculously tipped over the bar by goalie Lam Hong Cham.

That, one should say, was that.

From there on, especially in the second half, the Australians were on the defensive.

The abnormal night heat, when nothing in the air stirs, gradually began to tell on the wilting Australians, and served as a come-on to the effervescent and apparently inexhaustible, nippy Vietnamese.

However, the Australian defence stood its ground admirably.

Westwater, in his typical terrier fashion, ran himself to a standstill, while the powerful Schaefer used his tremendous strength to break up countless attacks.

Possibly the best man of the team was skipper John Warren, who played a marvellous game and, in the critical second half, very much in the style of his Sydney Grand Final effort, held his faltering team together.

After the sparkling display against New Zealand, the form of the Australian forwards was somewhat disappointing.

Baartz and Abonyi were often outpaced and outwitted, Vojtek was most ineffective while McColl failed to stick to his line on the left wing.

In the 80th minute, coach Vlasits replaced him with Richards, but this move was too late to change the defensive pattern of the team.

When the final whistle sounded, a totally exhausted, but deliciously happy Australian XI walked off the field knowing that they have already done more than their duty.

How we lined up: Romanowicz; Keith, Ackerley; Schaefer, Van Alphen, Westwater; Vojtek, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, McColl (Richards).

Australian left winger Ray Richards is tackled by a New Zealand defender in the Saigon match last Sunday. — UPI radiophoto.

Final is now within reach

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Wednesday. — The all-conquering Australian team — the toast of Saigon after their stirring 1-0 victory over South Vietnam last night — has a very arduous program between Saturday and Tuesday.

The Australians will almost certainly have to play three matches in four days.

On Saturday they meet Singapore in the last of the round-robin matches.

The Australians are raging hot favorites to win comfortably and top Group "A" ahead of South Vietnam.

Even in the most improbable event of a defeat against the injury-stricken Singapore we should still qualify for Sunday's semifinals on goal-average.

If Australia wins its group as expected, our opponents in Sunday's semifinal will be Malaysia or Hong Kong.

The other semifinal on Sunday's double-header bill will be between South Korea and South Vietnam, provided they beat New Zealand on Friday.

Australia's performances to date suggest a victory in the semifinal as both Malaysia and Hong Kong have shown nothing like the form displayed by the Aussies.

CO-FAVORITE

Even if we lose in the semifinal, Australia will still have to play on Tuesday because the beaten semifinalists will play-off for third and fourth place in a curtain-raiser to the final.

As a result of yesterday's win over South Vietnam, Australia has become co-favorite with South Korea.

Australia, however, are tipped to have an easier passage to the final.

The Koreans could have a big fight on their hands if South Vietnam pull through to the semifinals as expected.

MANLY'S FUTURE VERY BRIGHT

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Two of Manly-Warringah's greatest contributions to soccer have been to form a major Association in a district that previously was virtually not acquainted with the code, and to build a First Division club from within the ranks of the junior district itself.

It has taken 21 years to bring Manly-Warringah to its present complement of 255 teams.

Not only is soccer the major junior sport, but new clubs Wakehurst and Cromer are in operation ready to join in the 1968 competitions.

The district, under the guidance of such stalwarts as president Brian Emery and secretary Cyril Sutton is geared to back the seniors to the hilt.

Here is another Association whose representative teams were once of low standard.

Today, coaching goes on throughout the year for the representative squads.

The following coaches have been appointed to the junior grades, and are working for greater skills amongst their charges during the summer:

Under-14: Les White; under-13: Alan Bush; Under-12: Bert Jasma; Under-11: Stan Potts; Under-10: Bob Brandeau; Under-9: Brian Stelling.

One of Manly's other innovations has been to have their representative teams playing in local district competitions, when not regularly engaged in Metropolitan competitions.

Another is to give their junior teams colorful names.

In amongst their long lists of competitions, 30 in all, appear the Jaguars, Wolves, Wallabies, the Kauris, Redwoods and Mulgas, through to the Sparrows, Twigs and Leaves.

At the bottom of Under-7 Division 4 came — of all things — the Daggers.

The Manly-Warringah senior club has a mammoth job this year to consolidate its position in the Federation First Division, and the Soccer Club Ltd. is steadily working towards achievement of its early promise.

This gives the juniors, from Manly and Seaford, through almost to the top of the peninsula, the giant-sized job of attending to their own progress, and supporting the district club.

Such is the spirit of co-operation between both the bodies that 1968 could well see the mission successfully accomplished.

Gladesville-Hornsby

From seven teams to 273 teams in 15 years is a record of which the Gladesville-Hornsby Football Association can be justly proud.

Formed originally from the new soccer areas of Epping, Eastwood and Pennant Hills, the district gained immensely by tapping into the store of soccer knowledge in the traditionally strong centres of Gladesville and Ryde.

Gladesville president, Jack Woods, sees his district as having as much, or more football potential yet to be unleashed, than any other in Sydney.

To fulfil its destiny, Gladesville-Hornsby needs a first-class coach with plenty of dedication for next year's Inter-District sides.

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and Woods would be pleased to discuss the position with qualified people on his phone (89-4147).

These teams will link up with the Inter-Suburban club, which performed creditably in its first year under coach Andy McLaughlin, former secretary of the NSW Federation of Coaches.

The "Western Suburbs" pattern can be clearly seen, in that the Gladesville-Hornsby Soccer Club Ltd. is progressing, and has built the ground floor of its clubhouse at Santa Rosa Park, Bridge Road, North Ryde.

Frank Ridge and Allan Sandell have greatly assisted this project.

The social club is not as far advanced as Wests', but with almost 4,000 players taking the field the playing strength will be there.

Gladesville has over 500 under-7 players in 37 teams, a record which is unsurpassed throughout most of NSW.

Dispute resolved

This year was one in which foundations were laid for very solid growth in 1968.

The uncertainty inherent in the dispute over Ermington club was finally resolved, and the Association's stature has grown as a result.

Club co-operation has been won for the under-14 District Representative team for 1968, which will contribute greatly to playing standards.

This year, Laurie Seymour's under-21 representatives carried everything before them, the Metropolitan, K.O., and State titles.

In co-operation with Granville, a coaching school for coaches is being held each week at the Community Centre at West Epping Park with instructors drawn from the Coaches' Federation.

Enthusiasm has been so marked that the school is becoming an annual affair.

Jack Woods believes that the standard of refereeing in the district is higher than is generally conceded.

Under president Ken Foster, and with the present secretary, Frank Johns, the referees have grown into a powerful and well-directed body.

Last year, Roselea club, from the West Epping-Pennant Hills area, was admitted and grew into a sound unit.

Amongst next year's clubs is likely to be Kenthurst, drawn from the virtual no-man's-land between Gladesville, Nepean, Granville and Ku-ring-gai districts.

This year's committee could do with more working specialists.

Publicity has to be built in the central and northern areas, and skilled experts are required to give protest and disputes matters more detailed treatment.

With the election of such a committee, 1968 will doubtless be another year of sound achievement for the Association, in which the district's somewhat repressed football ambitions will come a deal closer to ultimate fulfilment.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

Polonia-North Side have applied for 11 dates at North Sydney Oval next season. They hope to play every competition match at the centrally situated ground in 1968.

PRAGUE's Annual Ball at the New Maccabean Ballroom last Saturday was a huge success with more than 400 guests in attendance.

The very talented teenage Cumberland goalkeeper, ROBERT HOPKINS, has joined St. George-Budapest.



PADDY BONHAM, the Croatia fullback who missed most of the 1967 season through a cartilage injury, has fully recovered. He is playing squash and tennis in a bid to regain his first team berth in the 1968 Ampol Cup.

The speedy Hakoah winger, BERNIE GOLD, was married last Wednesday week. Gold and his bride leave for a European honeymoon on Saturday on the "Fairsea".

The Pan Hellenic fullback, BERNIE HENSON, marries in a fortnight and will honeymoon at Suffers' Paradise.

JOHNNY GIACOMETTI should recover from last week's cartilage operation in time for next season's Ampol Cup. There are, however, growing rumors that the brilliant goalgetter will be seen in new colors next season.

Applicants for Hakoah's COACHING position are reminded that applications close on November 15.

ADRIAN RINGLAND, the Irish-born South Coast fullback, married Rhonda Beveridge last week. The newlyweds are honeymooning at Lord Howe Island.

Polonia-North Side have signed a goalkeeper from Queensland. He is German-born PETER HERMANN, from Hellenic-Brisbane.

JACK CURRY, Croatia's evergreen Irish-born stopper, underwent a successful nose operation last week. Curry broke his nose in the final

play-off match against St. George-Budapest in September.

TREVOR EDWARDS' wife is expecting a fourth child early in the new year. The experienced Hakoah fullback, incidentally, has fully recovered from the leg injury which sidelined him in the second last competition round.

Pan Hellenic and St. George-Budapest may be invited to take part in a four-team TOURNAMENT in Melbourne early next year with South Melbourne-Hellas and Melbourne-Hungaria.

Croatia's popular masseur, BRUNO GALLI, leaves for a holiday to his native Italy on November 28. Galli hasn't seen his family for 10 years and will return to Australia in March with his son.

Three POLISH First Division players are all signed up to boost Polonia-North Side next season. The trio is due in Sydney before the start of the 1968 premiership.

Pan Hellenic's JUNIOR PICNIC at Nielsen Park last Sunday was a big success. More than 350 people, including some 200 youngsters turned up. A great time was had by all.

Polonia-North Side are holding a picnic-dance on Sunday at the Church Property, Maryong, starting at 1 p.m. The world-famous MAZOWSZE Dance Company of Poland will attend and perform. Everybody welcome.

Croatia's THIRD GRADE side, one of the best in Sydney, resumes training in three weeks under coach Bill Bicanich. Many players of this talented team are expected to be promoted to Souths' second grade next season.

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS are negotiating for a match against APIA on Saturday, November 18.

PAN HELLENIC leave at 8 a.m. on Saturday by Ansett-ANA for Adelaide where they will play against their "sister" club, WA-Hellas, at Norwood Stadium at 3 p.m. The Sydneysiders return home on Sunday evening after having been entertained at an all-day barbecue by their hosts.

Hakoah will resume TRAINING on January 2, 1968, under their new coach.

Croatia's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held during the first week of Dec-

ember, after the Croatian Social Club elects its next executive.

Polonia's ball-playing winger, ANDREW GAIK, returns to his native Poland early next year.

NORTH WOLLONGONG S.C. held their Presentation Night at the Cabbage Tree Hotel, Wollongong, last week. Trophies were presented to Roland Krueger (first grade), Hartmut Karislow (reserve grade), retiring captain Ted Williamson, and to Ted Cook, the only player from the club nominated for the Illawarra representative team in 1967.

Hakoah won't tour NEW CALEDONIA in January. The president of the Noumea club, "Impossible", Guy Fontques, will be in Sydney early next year to tee up details for a Hakoah tour to New Caledonia later next year.

APIA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held next Tuesday evening.

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Refs. meet on Friday

The NSW Federation of Soccer Referees has convened a meeting for Friday at 7.30 p.m. at the Western Suburbs Soccer Club, Five Dock, at which any Referees Association is invited to discuss matters of interest.

The Referees' president, Allan Halls, said this week that his society was embarking on a further period of expansion in both city and country, with definite 1968 objectives in view.

In 1967 much had been done to gain uniformity on work by referees' inspectors, but in 1968 the trend would be more outward-looking.

Discussions will be held with the Northern NSW Referees on uniformity of approach to various matters, and later the ACT would be similarly contacted.

The Federation Referees put great accent on uniformity of standards, so that a referee may have a firm grade when transferring from place to place.

The experience gained would finally link up the States into a truly national body, in the fashion so successfully exploited by the coaches. K.G.

INTERSTATE SOCCER

WA-HELLAS (Adelaide)

— Champion South Australian team —

v.

PAN HELLENIC

at WENTWORTH PARK, SYDNEY,

3 p.m. November 19, 1967.

Early Game: 1.15 p.m. Gates open 12.30 p.m.

St. George-Budapest Soccer Club Ltd.

requests the help and co-operation of the Sydney soccer public in establishing the club's

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The "Doc", Chelsea Players' load simply had to part can be lifted

Tommy Docherty has come a long way since he talked his way out of the slums of the Gorbals district of Glasgow.

He has now just talked himself out of a \$17,000 a year job as manager of Chelsea at the age of 38.

Soccer's most explosive character, banned from all League grounds for a month, joins the growing list of unemployed knowing that at least his Scottish wife, Agnes, and four children won't go hungry.

The Dochertys live in a \$40,000 house in London's exclusive Wimbledon only a lobe away from the Centre Court.

They run a blue Jaguar and Tommy, well looked after financially when Chelsea were successful, has invested his bonuses shrewdly.

And he can probably count on around \$17,000 with the golden handshake the Chelsea directors will give him with relief.

Why relief? Despite statements about parting good friends, Chelsea directors found this fiery and impetuous Scot an embarrassment because at times Tommy's Celtic blood is too much to handle.

Make no mistake. Docherty wanted to get away from Chelsea.

True, he announced diplomatically that he was happy and the team were the best bunch of players in the world.

Nevertheless, through friends Tommy put out feelers for three big jobs in recent months. And he moved to an upstairs office at Stamford Bridge a month ago!

I would say the emotional Scottish tiger fell out of love with Chelsea the day Joe Mears, chairman of the Football Association and Chelsea, fell dead in the streets of Oslo.

Joe was the one man in football who brought some angelic qualities out of a man who has never claimed to be an angel.

Joe Mears, a tall, softly spoken man, was as gentle as Docherty can be fierce.

He had tremendous affection for his Scottish terrier... "Tommy's got his faults," said Joe, "but he never gives me any bother and he just lives for Chelsea."

And the Doc had complete respect for Joe Mears.

Savage

Though Tommy was born in a district where it's not unusual for a man to throw a punch first and ask questions later, Mears could always soothe the savage breast of Tommy Docherty.

Fierce Celtic blood bubbles through his veins and when the adrenalin flows it sparks off another outburst.

But if he was not a born fighter he would have perished in the squalor of his birth place.

As a boy he shared the same bed with his sick father, mother and elder sister.

His father died when he was nine, and his brave mother just took on an extra shift of scrubbing floors.

Sorry

Docherty has enemies, but also many friends.

Some Chelsea players who had felt the rough edge of his tongue, wanted to see the back of him. Now they are all genuinely sorry he has gone.

Tom Finney, one of England's greatest footballers, and as controlled as Docherty is undisciplined, says of him:

"Tommy hated to lose, but what a player to have on your side. And what a player to have against you. We're great friends but when he played for Scotland I had to stand up to

some of the toughest tackling of my career."

That sums up this human dynamo. His wife and children can handle him for he's the type a child can lead. But an army of soccer directors or players couldn't push him.

To Docherty, life is a challenge and he can't resist a challenge.

But what a stormy career. Look at some of the highlights since he left Arsenal to join Chelsea as coach on February 10, 1961.

He took over from Ted Drake in October, 1961, and controlled his tongue for a few months. But in January, 1962, when officially appointed team manager, he boasted: "If Chelsea fail, I'll take the rap, and that's how it should be."

The Napoleon of Football was massing his armies for an attack on the soccer empire.

December, 1964: Refused his players permission to spend Boxing Day at home but insisted they gather in a London hotel.

April, 1965: Dropped his captain, Terry Venables, "because there couldn't be two bosses at Chelsea." Later he shocked the soccer world by sending eight of his first team players home from Blackpool because they had stayed out late.

December, 1966: Fined \$250 and severely censured by the FA for "ungentlemanly remarks" to a referee in a Youth Cup tie. Comments afterwards: "It was well worth the money."

Rebel

January, 1967: Another bombshell when he dropped Tony Hateley the \$250,000 centre-forward he signed from Aston Villa.

February: Rebelled against his directors, supporting his players protesting at their



When Docherty played for Prague, in Sydney... his great appearance was in 1965 against Stuttgart.

allocation of Cup tie tickets. Later publicly reprimanded by his directors for "statements made to Press and TV."

June: Trouble in Bermuda. Threatened to call off the whole team after Hateley had been sent off. These troubles brought about the FA suspension last month which hastened his resignation from Chelsea.

No other man has had such a stormy soccer career as Tommy Docherty. At 38, he is now at the crossroads. Soccer, devoid of personalities, can't afford to lose him.

Things will never be quite the same again at Stamford Bridge. When you extinguish the flame that burns inside Docherty it is replaced by a sense of chill and emptiness. Chelsea will survive and probably thrive but it will be a quieter and duller place without him.

—By FRANK BUTLER
"The Express," London.

— By JANOS PALFAI —
in the Hungarian monthly "Labdarugas"

The recent international advanced coaching symposium, held by the UEFA in Zeist, Holland, has highlighted many interesting developmental changes in soccer.

The symposium was attended by 63 men from 29 countries — and all the men were either national coaches or managers.

A widely accepted view by the gathering was that the level of physical fitness and strength achieved by the English and German teams in last year's World Cup or by Celtic Glasgow in this year's European Cup final is pretty close to the maximum effort.

In conditioning, elasticity, speed of movement and sheer strength this level will be very hard to exceed. Various close observations and measurements prove this too.

According to these, the physical output by top European players has almost doubled between 1955 and 1965 while since 1965 it has increased only by 10 per cent.

Obviously the task of those who have attained this peak physical performance level, is to maintain it.

This can be done only through constant high-level training, conditioning, match practice and a normal private life.

Those who have yet to achieve this peak should work towards it. These include the Hungarians, Portuguese, Czechoslovakians, Yugoslavs and many others.

However, even the English, German and Russian coaches are keen to further increase the physical capabilities of their players. How?

Chiefly through "playful" practices, contests and various modes of work-out games.

"Playful" of course does not mean that the training sessions are loose or disorganised but that the measurable work-load is carried

by players in the form of various games, all devised to perfect various technical and tactical moves.

There are dozens of playful exercises that serve this purpose and an imaginative coach can always add to these.

Most coaches, mainly in Britain, regard these "playful" exercises as their most important tools for the increase of the physical output of their players.

They realise that a player is capable of much greater exertion at training if he gets his work-load in games rather than repetitive exercises.

The Russian coach, M. Tovarovsky told the symposium that it's one thing to run lap after lap on the track and another again to do a lot of running with the ball or what can be described "running into positions."

"This doesn't mean that we'll abandon the ordinary running without the ball," he said, "such as sprints, rapid starts and the various means of increasing a player's ability to change speed or to increase his capacity."

LITTLE GAMES

"It only means that as much of our physical exercises as possible are done with the ball, especially before the season."

"The majority of these exercises are wrapped up in little games, even competitions among the players and are also used during practice matches."

Alan Wade and Robert Small emphasised the complex problem of increasing the player's speed and stamina.

Both pointed out that the field player's load is further increasing.

British clubs often play up to 50-60 matches a year, in nine or 10 months.

The average player is required to do 100 to 150 quick runs per match with or without the ball.

In future this average is likely to increase to 140-160 a match, totalling about 2,000 metres (2,200 yards) in 90 minutes.

And this does not include the short runs required for the execution of technical feats, the slow or medium-pace runs for positioning, the jumps, the backward runs or the strength expended in the physical contacts.

To meet such requirements a player must have the right physical attributes to start with.

But even these can achieve it only after years of methodical build-up, preparing them for such a fantastic work-load.

The ideal subjects are players who start as very young boys and acquire all the necessary technical skills at an early age.

At the moment there are few such players: Eusebio, Law, Charlton, Albert, Suarez, etc.

These are all capable of lifting the performance of their teams to a higher plane.

But the team of the future will have to include not one but several such players possessing faultless technique and capable of maximum 90-minute physical output.

And this is the goal towards which coaches of today must strive.

Recently the International FA Board — FIFA's law-making arm — announced some changes and new interpretations regarding the rules.

As these will become applicable to Australia by 1968, the following excerpts may be of interest.

Law III: THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS.

Law:

"(1) A match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eleven players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.

(2) Substitutes, up to a maximum of two per team, are permitted in a friendly match and also, provided that the authority of the International Association(s) or National Association(s) concerned has been obtained, in a match played under the rules of a competition. The referee shall be informed of the names of substitutes (if any) before the start of the match.

(3) One of the other players, or a named substitute (if allowed) may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that notice is given to the referee before the change is made.

Punishment: If, without the referee being notified, a player or a named substitute, changes places with the goalkeeper during the game, at the half-time interval, or at any other interval in a game in which extra time is played, and then handles the ball within the

penalty area, a penalty kick shall be awarded."

Decisions:

New Decision 3 — "Before the start of the match the referee shall be informed of the names of any possible substitutes up to a maximum of 5 from whom the 2 substitutes may be chosen. The number of substitutes to be named shall be determined by the International or National Association concerned."

New Decision 4 — "A player who has been ordered off before play begins may only be replaced by one of the named substitutes. The kick-off must not be delayed to allow the substitute to join his team.

A player who has been ordered off after play has started may not be replaced.

A named substitute who has been ordered off, either before or after play has started, may not be replaced (this decision only relates to players who are ordered off under Law XII. It does not apply to players who have infringed Law IV)."

New Decision 5 — "A player who has been replaced shall not take any further part in the game."

New Decision 6 — "The referee must be informed if a player is to be substituted. A substitute may only be permitted to enter the field of play during a stoppage in the game and after he has received a signal from the referee authorising him to do so."

New Decision 7 — "A substitute shall be deemed to be a player and shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee whether called upon to play or not."

Law V: THE REFEREE

Decisions:

Decision 4 — "The authority of the referee, and the exercise of the powers granted to him by the laws of the game, commence as soon as he enters the field of play, and consequently any players, or named substitutes, at fault may be sent off the field before the game has actually commenced.

The referee shall report to the appropriate authority misconduct or any misdemeanour on the part of spectators, officials, players, named substitutes or other persons which take place either on the field of play or in its vicinity at any time prior to, during, or after the match in question

so that appropriate action can be taken by the authority concerned."

"A player shall be SENT OFF the field of play, if:

- in the opinion of the referee he is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play
- he uses foul or abusive language
- he persists in misconduct after having received a caution."

Law XIV: PENALTY KICK

The text of the punishment section is altered as follows:

"Punishment: For any infringement of this law.

(a) by the defending team, the kick shall be re-taken if a goal has not resulted

(b) by the attacking team other than by the player taking the kick, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and the kick re-taken

(c) by the player taking the penalty kick, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free kick from the spot where the infringement occurred."

Decisions:

Decision 3 — "If a player of the defending side en-

croaches into the penalty area or within ten yards of the penalty mark before the ball has been kicked the referee will not intervene. If a goal has been scored it shall be awarded."

Decision 4 — "If, when a penalty kick is being taken, the player taking the penalty kick is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct he shall be cautioned. If the kick has been taken and a goal resulted it shall be retaken."

Decision of principle:

The question submitted by FIFA concerning the place where an offence takes place (player kicking, hitting, tripping an opponent or the referee or throwing the ball or another object vigorously at an opponent or the referee or attempting to do so):

(1) where the punishable action was started or

(2) where the opponent (or referee) was touched or

(3) "everywhere between the spot the action started to where the opponent (or referee) was touched"

was answered by the board, that the infringement was committed where the punishable action started.

F.I.F.A. announces new rule interpretations

All isn't quiet on Blacktown's front

Bias charge

Mr. George Churchward, the Hon. Secretary of the Nepean District Soccer Football Association, in his letter, published in your issue of October 20, 1967, stated that, there's no bias in Blacktown. And I say, there is.

Apparently, Mr. Churchward, forgot how clubs, like White Eagles (Polish), International (Italian) and Rainbows (Maltese) were threatened by expulsion from his Association, two or three years ago.

Mr. Churchward forgot that these clubs were treated very badly by his Association.

One of them, International, were finally expelled.

There were clubs which deserved the harshest punishments, but no actions were taken against them.

I remember that the Rainbows were threatened by expulsion on the grounds that their players had committed a great number of misconducts during their games.

On scanning the list of the clubs with the greatest numbers of misconducts, I found that Blacktown Spartans topped the list, and Rainbows were the tenth in the classification.

But, no actions were taken against the Spartans.

The vicious attacks and accusations made against the Rainbows are adequate proof that there's discrimination and bias in Blacktown.

The players of Rainbows never attacked or assaulted the referees, as was the case with the players of Spartans and other clubs but, because the Rainbows are a Maltese team, they wanted to get rid of it.

This brings to my mind another case of bias and discrimination.

When Rainbows acquired Francis Park, as their home ground, the Nepean District Soccer Football Association gave the ground to Spartans, and allocated another ground to Rainbows, several miles away from Blacktown.

There was an incident in a game, when one of the Rainbows players was bitten and knocked down by an opponent, and also the manager of this team attacked the said player, they were reported by the referee but no action was taken against them.

Now, can Mr. Churchward explain, why he failed to answer to my invitations to his committee to attend the soccer Gala Days and the KO Competitions, which I organised in the past months?

Can he explain why his Association refused to grant permission to its clubs to take part in the KO Competition, which at the present moment is being held at Francis Park?

And why his Association warned its clubs that if they take part, they will be expelled from the Association?

I know why. Because the invitations were issued by me, because the competition was organised by me, who happened to be a Maltese.

JOHN CACHIA GARRETT
Blacktown.

Secret meeting

Although I regard Mr. Churchward as a soccer-conscious man and also my soccer friend, his letter (Oct. 20) about me was completely unfounded and so I would like to clear up several points.

It is true that there are Polish and Italian teams in Blacktown but they promote good soccer.

In 1966 the Italian team gave up because of certain rules and the Polish club had to shut up or else.

The Rainbows played in the Granville Association because they wanted to obey the rules completely, especially the boundary rules.

The Rainbows always fielded a senior and a junior team but because Nepean had no place for under-20 teams, our juniors had to play in senior grade.

This season the Rainbows fielded three teams with Granville Association; one senior, one under-18 in the senior grade and one under-16, which showed championship material.

I would like to ask now —

● If it is true that the Rainbows were forced to play far away from their home ground;

● Is it true that the Nepean Association broke their own constitution by forcing the Rainbows out of Francis Park;

● Is it true that a group of Blacktown people attended a hush-hush meeting and illegally tried to suspend the Rainbows on 10 charges which later proved to be false?

PHILIP MICALLEFF
Blacktown.

Why not us?

The Federation's pitifully unsuccessful last-minute bid to get the Australia Cup final televised live from Melbourne should teach them once and for all they can only get things done if they foot the bill themselves.

Surely, part of the huge profit from overseas tours could have been set aside to enable Sydney fans to watch a telecast of Australia's most important match of the year.

The Federation could also have arranged for a radio broadcast of the final once the TV deal fell through.

However, they were unable, or unwilling to arrange for progress scores to be broadcast throughout the afternoon.

I rang 2BL quite a few times Sunday afternoon to find out how the game was going, but I was told I had to wait until 6.15 p.m. for a summary — a full hour after the match had ended.

The NSW Federation, too, have no idea on how to pro-

mote and publicize the code.

Whatever happened to the fixture lists they usually put out?

If it hadn't been for the fixture list in SOCCER WORLD, no one would have known of the matches ahead.

The Federation can't leave everything to SOCCER WORLD. You help soccer enough as it is.

I would also like to see the Federation publish a pamphlet on the rules of the game, to be distributed throughout NSW.

This would quieten some of the unruly elements among our spectators, who simply don't know the rules of soccer.

The Federation has everything to learn when it comes to promoting the game, and I can see no future in this great sport of ours until those in charge buckle down to tin-tacks, instead of wasting their time in useless parleys which are getting soccer nowhere fast.

FRANK SCHEMBRI,
Auburn.

Rude "lady"

Hold your horses, soccer — your social clubs are just as bad and ineffective for the game as those of Rugby League clubs.

The day before the Australia Cup final I rang up the APLA Social Club, trying to find out whether the Melbourne match would be televised.

I rang APLA because, after all, they were one of the participants and one would have thought that they had some little interest in the proceedings.

A female voice, rude as they come, gave me a brief lecture by saying that "we are a social club, not a football club and don't bother us with such nonsense".

I hung up in disgust. Let me assure the lady in question that I wouldn't bother her again — even if her life depended on it.

DENIS FOGARTY,
Sydney.

READERS' LETTERS

Double-headers

To make soccer a resounding success next season and halt the decline in attendances here is a simple, practical scheme our administrators could look into.

At all costs, obtain the use of an adequate stadium (not Wentworth Park, with its obsolete lighting posts which obscure the view, or the windswept Marks Field), to stage the best double-header of the week.

The sharing of the gate could be evenly distributed on some proportional basis, with all 12 clubs sharing, as some obviously will feature in the glamorous double-headers more often than others.

Divide all matches equally between Saturday and Sunday, and also hold one game every Friday night or Wednesday night.

In the long run it would increase soccer attendances, bringing people into the game who are unable to attend over the weekend.

Retain by all means national names, which add color to the soccer scene.

The critics of national names are chauvinistic and petty.

Who wants soccer, rugby league, union and Australian rules to be burdened with teams all called "Easts", "West", "Norths", "Souths", etc.

Soccer's exotic names make ours a truly distinctive code.

Pick up any newspaper and when you read "APLA" or "Prague" in a headline, you know immediately what the story refers to.

I'm a third generation Australian and I, for one, can't care less what any soccer team is called, as long as I can be guaranteed a good afternoon's entertainment.

And make no mistake about it, so do the vast majority of Australian-born who are true soccer lovers.

J.H. CONNOLLY,
Bankstown.

Aust. played vital part in Caledonian soccer

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Australia's young "B" team, now competing in the Noumea triangular tournament, is the sixth Australian side to visit New Caledonia.

Australia had a big hand in establishing soccer as the major sport in New Caledonia.

It was against Australia, the first foreign team ever to visit the Island, that New Caledonia made its international debut.

The year was 1933 when the full Australian national team played three games in Noumea, winning the lot: 2-1, 4-2 and 7-3.

The tour was a big financial success and helped put the code on a sound footing in New Caledonia.

Soccer was introduced in New Caledonia in 1910 when a visiting French warship, the "Montcalm," played a match at Noumea's Military Park against a team of local French colonial infantrymen stationed in New Caledonia.

New Caledonians thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of soccer, and the following year, in 1911, two local clubs were formed, "Neo-Caledonienne" and "Prometheus."

The Island, however, had to wait until 1928 for the creation of a New Caledonian Football League, which to this day remains affiliated to the French FA, just like any ordinary provincial French association.

In 1933, soccer was already quite firmly established, but lack of outside competition was somewhat stifling the growth of the game.

The Australians' tour changed all that, and New Caledonian soccer has never looked back since.

The New Caledonians, however, had to wait 17 years for another taste of international football.

Australia again provided the opposition, in 1950, when a second-string Australian XI, comprising players not selected for the South African tour, played three games in Noumea.

The Australians won two — 1-0 and 4-2, and lost the third and final game 1-3.

From then on, New Caledonia participated in an ever-increasing number of internationals, mainly against South Pacific neighbours like the New Hebrides, Tahiti (New Caledonia's "traditional" rivals), Fiji and New Zealand.

Australia only resumed soccer rapport with the French islanders in 1964 when a NSW team lost twice in Noumea, 1-2 and 1-3, to New Caledonia on October 18 and 22.

The following 15 players toured New Caledonia in 1964: Ackerley, Blitz, Corry, Doherty, Edwards, Folwell, Hughes, Lord, Reynolds, Schaefer, Scheinflug, Smith, Stegbauer, Warren and Watkiss.

Twelve months later Ackerley, Blitz, Hughes, Scheinflug, Warren and Watkiss were selected in the World Cup squad, and Corry and Schaefer made this year's Asian touring side.

Yearly visits

The 1964 visit to Noumea paved the way for yearly contacts between Australia and New Caledonia.

In 1965, the New Caledonians reciprocated the NSW visit.

After losing 1-3 to the Sydney under-20 XI (which included Rorke in goal) and 2-5 to APLA, the colorful visitors scored a sensational 4-2 win over a NSW XI at Wentworth Park on October 10.

The NSW team lined up thus: Roberts; Petric, Ackerley; Hughes, Marnoch, Schaefer; Pearson, Warren, Christie, Watkiss, Todd.

Warren and Watkiss scored for NSW.

In 1966, the two countries only met on junior and club level.

The New Caledonian juniors played twice in Sydney in September, reciprocating NSW's visit to Noumea two months earlier.

In November last year, Hakoah broke new ground by becoming the first Australian club team to play in Noumea.

The 1966 Grand Final winners beat New Caledonia 2-0 and drew 3-3.

New Caledonia's finest hour in international football came on June 5, 1965, when their representative team thrashed VfB Stuttgart 5-1 after the Germans had beaten Prague 3-1 in Sydney.

In recent years, many French sides have also visited the Island: the French Army XI in 1961; France's amateur champions, Gazelec Ajaccio in 1963; Toulon, a Second Division team in 1965, and last year the full French amateur national team, which last week qualified for the 1968 Olympic finals.

Toulon, incidentally, beat New Caledonia's champions, "Vallee du Tir," 2-0 while there.

New Caledonia won the first South Pacific Games tournament in Suva, Fiji, in 1963.

Last year, however, when the Games were held in Noumea, they were surprisingly beaten 0-2 in the final by their arch-rivals, Tahiti.

West engage four pros instead of apprentices

— By ALAN SPEERS —

In a little more than two months, the plan by Western Suburbs to inject a little professionalism into Australia's hitherto part-time soccer set-up will be taken a step further.

The club last week announced the names of the four players who will become Australia's first full-time soccer pros.

The four are: Peter Pont, 19, of Newcastle, currently touring with Australia's "B" team in New Caledonia; Warren Rendall, 18; John Holmes, 21; and John Bijkerk, 21.

They will start on January 22, under Western Suburbs' full-time coach, ex-international, Joe Marston.

All of which is hardly news, so well-publicised has been Western's professional scheme.

But, like a lot of other new enterprises, the scheme has been surrounded by no little misapprehension, most of which has centred around the club's intention to appoint apprentice professionals.

The facts of the matter are that Pont, Rendall, Holmes and Bijkerk will not be signed as apprentices.

They will be full professionals.

Big outlay

As Western Suburbs' president, Albert De Paoli said this week: "It is going to cost the club between \$4,000 and \$5,000 a year for each of the four players."

"Obviously it would be sheer folly if these players were not ready to go into our 'A' team next season."

"West's plan eventually to have a team of professionals in the First Division, after which we may be ready to sign 16-year-olds with a view to training them to top standard."

"But it's out of the question at the moment," De Paoli said.

The four players will be signed on an initial two-year contract, with the club having the right to extend the term after that period.

Once training begins in January, all four will be kept busy under Marston's watchful eye.

"No definite program has yet been worked out," said De Paoli, "that will be done when Joe Marston returns from overseas."

"But the boys will probably train for about three hours in the morning, then they will accompany Joe on his regular visits to schools in the western suburbs."

"They will be at work on these excursions, too, demonstrating ball control and the like to the school-boys."

"They will also train with the other team members on the regular training nights, three times a week," De Paoli added.

Did he envisage any problems caused by the four pros becoming "too good" for others in the side because of the highly specialised training they will receive?

"This will be no problem," he said, "in fact, it is what we are hoping for."

"After all, they will be full-time professional players and our aim is to build a team all of whom are up to top professional standard."

De Paoli revealed that he had been approached by a number of young players, some of whom are touring with the Australian "B" team, interested in turning professional.

"We entertained the under-23 team at our club before they left, and believe me, it was more than surprising how many showed interest in joining us," he said.

● FIRST DIVISION FLASHBACK

CROATIA GAVE INKING OF MODERN FOOTBALL

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Alternating some of the most intelligent tactical football ever seen in Sydney club football with abject, colorless and totally unproductive performances, South Sydney Croatia were the despair of their small band of loyal supporters in 1967.

Under coach Michael Kiss during the first half of the season Croatia played the most modern football of any team in Sydney, APIA and St. George-Budapest notwithstanding.

Willingly giving up the midfield to their opponents, they all but invited them to attack against their brilliantly organised brick-wall defence, only to catch their rivals off-guard with counter-attacks which yielded many a match-winning goal.

Using basically the same players as last season, Kiss introduced for the first time system in the team.

Croatia had an excellently organised defence, strong midfield links and some dangerous goalgetters — the ingredients needed for modern soccer.

These tactics, which were admirably suited to the players available to implement them, might not have been too spectacular for the average fan, but they paid handsome dividends.

To such an extent, in fact, that when Croatia defeated APIA 2-1 at Lambert Park on May 12, there were many who were convinced Croatia might go on to take out the premiership.

"Horror stretch"

However, just when the competition looked like developing into a two-horse race, between APIA and Croatia, way out in front of the rest of the field, disaster suddenly struck Croatia.

They were never quite the same, not by a long shot, after Giles fell victim to the incomprehensible aggression of Manchester United's fiery Denis Law.

Giles' enforced absence through injury also coincided with a dramatic slump and loss of form all round, and for nine agonising weeks the team failed to notch a win.

Croatia's early season success, however, was such that despite repeated failures during their "horror stretch", they still managed to keep themselves in the first four.

As it happens all too often, coach Kiss was made the scapegoat for Croatia's appalling run of defeats.

He was replaced by the effervescent Frank Hearn, whose appointment somehow acted as a tonic to the team, whose fortunes took a turn for the better almost overnight.

Although not nearly as efficient as under Kiss in the first seven or eight matches, Croatia's defence tightened up considerably, and in the last four competition rounds their

forwards once again mastered the art of counter-attack.

This resulted in another epic battle with APIA — Croatia's most important First Division match ever.

Set down to play APIA in a deferred match, which should have played long before, on the last Sunday of the competition, Croatia had to win both points to sneak into the final play-offs.

The old magic, and the hoodoo they have held over APIA in competition games for the last two seasons, worked again, and Croatia won in characteristic fashion by defending grimly, but cleverly, and seizing on their limited opportunities with lightning-fast raids to score the two goals which opened them the doors to the semifinals for the first time in their history.

This, unfortunately, was the last time Croatia gave a satisfying account of themselves in 1967.

Croatia, in 1967, had their best season ever on the playing field thanks to their defence, not so much the players individually, but through the system they adopted under Kiss, and stuck to even after his demise.

Their forwards, despite talented, proven players like Reynolds and Giles, didn't carry their weight though.

This is how their players performed, starting with their overworked defence.

Goalie Corry had his best year since Canterbury and was rewarded with a berth in the touring Australian team.

Fullbacks Lincoln and Sloan had excellent seasons, although Lincoln may not have been quite so prominent as in 1966 when he won SOCCER WORLD's "star" award as Sydney's most consistent premiership performer.

Australian international, Nigel Shepherd, the former Slavia Melbourne star, played a sweeper's game and, in fact, was the team's fourth fullback.

Shepherd took some time to find his bearings in Sydney soccer, and was only his old, assured self in the latter stages of the season, but in 1968 he should be back in the very top bracket of Australian fullbacks.

Stopper Curry, that stalwart Irish "evergreen" had a new lease of life in 1967 and was every bit as effective as in his Canterbury heyday.

Ray Cush

Of the midfield players, the talented young Ray Cush was the undisputed star.

Often wasted in attack, in a role totally unsuited for him, the elder of the Cush brothers nearly played himself into the touring Australian team.

A strong, powerfully-built 21-year-old, with a fine ball sense and technique, Ray Cush contributed to many a Croatia victory with the poise he allied so successfully with ruggedness and doggedness.

Snedden was as tireless a midfield link as ever, and although he never caught the eye or stood out in many matches, his "fetch and carry" tasks didn't go unnoticed by the more attentive observers.

Giles, despite his lay-off through injury, was the kingpin of Croatia's attack, but he was never quite the same player after the Law incident.

He started the season in brilliant fashion, earned selection against Manchester United and Scotland and played no mean part in taking Croatia to the top after the first competition rounds.

Reynolds' season was ruined by the recurring injuries that have plagued him ever since he immigrated from England.

At the start of the season, with Giles and Reynolds at their best, Croatia were a match for any team, but towards the finish it was significant that their attack's decline coincided with these two fine players' loss of form.

Frank Cush did not confirm the promise shown in 1966, and may never do so unless he can acquire some notion of the technique indispensable to any forward worth his salt.

True, his tear-away goals won a few matches early in the season, but only when he had a Giles or Reynolds alongside him to send him on his way.

None of Croatia's other forwards held permanent berths in their attack, and none left any lasting impression.

Tomicic certainly tried his best when recalled to the first team in the latter stages of the season, but he was past his peak even two years ago.

Swoboda, Tyrrell and Fraser were all in and out of the attack, but none earned his keep.

Croatia, like Pan Hellenic, are in no pressing need for defensive reinforcements next season.

The defenders they've got on their books should see them through another season, but, like Hakoah, their forward line desperately needs a lift in 1968.

Croatia have the financial backing to do well in 1968, and we feel they can be justifiably optimistic about the future, providing they buy wisely in attack during the off-season.

■ SECOND DIV. REVIEW

Corinthians may continue recovery

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

After the big drop from First Division the previous season, Corinthians' return to the Second Division fold was rather unhappy and the side's half-hearted approach, clearly noticeable in the early stages of the season, contributed greatly to the failure of the team in making the final four.

Admittedly, the team lost some of its best players to other clubs but worse still was the dissatisfaction and selfish attitude of some of the retained players.

This brought about a disastrous start when in its first match of the season the team was beaten in a ten-goal duel by the then freshly promoted North Bankstown.

After this game, wheels were put in motion to eradicate the discontent and to come to some satisfactory terms with the players, and this, of course included bringing back into the side Derek Griffin, — still one of the finest goalkeepers in the State.

With Griffin between the posts, the side started to improve and his safe and confident hands surely saved Corinthians from finishing much closer to the bottom of the ladder.

Like many other teams, Corinthians lacked punch in the forwards and most of the 26 points were collected by odd-goal wins or draws.

Peculiar as it may seem, Corinthians, from the outset was not really interested to go back to First Division and this may explain why the club was glad to sell its best players to any club interested.

However, as the season progressed, the spirit rose and gradually the side reorganised itself and with the acquisition of John Herpe at centre-half and the inclusion of some young and promising youngsters, it managed to stop the rot.

Of course, at the end, with all the problems solved, even if temporarily, the club was able to make a substantial effort to get into the semi-finals concluding the final game of the season with a massacre of the doomed bottom of the table, Blacktown to the tune of 12-0.

Gigantic as it seems when compared with previous results, this effort was in vain as the side lost a place in the semifinal on goal average.

Despite meagre support, the financial fortunes of the club are much healthier than they were a year ago and are steadily improving.

During the off-season, Corinthians lost Tony Amey but it hopes to retain all the other players from last season and there will be no transfers to other clubs.

Sutherland improved

Sutherland's team was undoubtedly one of the most improved in Second Division and although it had its share of ups and downs during the season, its performances were consistent enough to merit the fourth place in the competition and a place in the Grand Final.

With good coaching and efficient management, the club came a long way from the previous season when it finished second last on the competition table.

Under the coaching of Frank Wimmer, the ex-Victorian State coach —

who since resigned — the young Sutherland side was moulded and developed into a fast and effective combination playing an attacking style of soccer which at times was a delight to watch.

DISCIPLINE

Considering the precarious position in which the team found itself in 1966, the club recorded some remarkable achievements this season, starting by sneaking into the semifinals with better goal average than Corinthians and Western Suburbs who also had 26 points, and then by reaching the Grand Final.

Sutherland is mainly composed of local players, well disciplined and managed.

Most improved player in the team is Gordon Shrubsole who, together with Ian O'Reilly and Alan Griffiths, form the stubborn half-back line which untiringly held some of the most experienced opposition in the division.

In the front line, the team was well served with some of the most promising youths in Second Division, including the fast left-winger Sam Cucitti, whose defence-splitting passes came to notice on many occasions, full-back turned centre-forward Bobby O'Brien, right-winger Davidson and the up-and-coming Roche.

With this season's experience behind them, all these players are marked for further improvement in 1968.

NAME CHANGE

Sutherland were formed way back in 1934 when as Casuals Soccer Club they participated in the St. George Soccer Association.

It was in 1951 that the name was changed to Sutherland Shire Soccer Football Club and in 1954 won promotion to the then NSW State League playing at Sutherland Oval.

Sutherland had a very successful season in 1957 when it won the Association Second Division premiership and gained First Division status for 1958.

The club joined the NSW Federation Second Division after the death of the NSW Soccer Association and in 1961 amalgamated with St. George which resulted in the name being changed again to Sutherland-St. George Soccer Football Club.

This lasted only two years, and in 1963 the name was reverted to the Sutherland Shire Soccer Club.

Sutherland Shire Soccer Club is backed by its licensed social club whose new and modern premises were officially opened last December.

The club has also built a harmonious relationship with the district's Junior Soccer Association, whose president is Len Chapman.

Summer coaching classes, open to all youngsters from the age of 12, will be conducted by club coaches during the off-season, at the club's ground, Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda.

GOALIES — BORN OR DRIVEN MAD?

Goalkeepers are crazy — so says an old adage — but I often wonder if they are born so or are driven crazy later in life?

Theirs is possibly the most thankless position in a team; a goalie makes a mistake and a match may be lost, but a forward can make 20 mistakes, then score a goal and he is still a hero.

Goalkeepers have always fascinated me, especially nowadays when their post is just about the only one in the team that is not interchangeable.

This last season the 12 Sydney First Division clubs used no less than 30 goal-

keepers in competition matches — an average of two and a half per club.

Only two appeared in all the 22 matches of their teams: Corry of Croatia and Eaton of Melita Eagles.

This is their list:

APIA:

Taylor 12,

Rorke 10.

ST. GEORGE:

Haffey 19,

Sokoloff 3.

CROATIA:

Corry 22.

PAN HELLENIC:

Clarke 12,

Rademacher 8,

Thompson 1,

Maglis 1.

HAKOAH:

Fuzes 12,

Wilson 10.

PRAGUE:

Earl 14,

King 8,

YUGAL:

Separovic 9,

Petrou 5,

Djukic 4,

Ljubic 3,

Viskovic 1.

CANTERBURY:

Demopoulos 18,

Margeit 4.

SOUTH COAST:

Nuell 20,

McQuire 2.

CUMBERLAND:

Hopkins 18,

Fisher 4.

POLONIA:

Drewniak 7,

Bout 7,

Root 4,

Seymour 3,

Owers 1.

MELITA EAGLES:

Eaton 22.

— Paul Dean

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ROUND THE WORLD

European Championship matches

The following matches still have to be played in the qualifying rounds of the European Championship: **Group I:** Turkey v. Czechoslovakia (15-11), Czechoslovakia v. Eire (22-11); **Group II:** Portugal v. Norway (12-11), Bulgaria v. Sweden (12-11), Bulgaria v. Portugal (26-11), Portugal v. Bulgaria (17-12); **Group III:** Austria v. Greece (5-11); **Group IV:** Yugoslavia v. Albania (12-11), Albania v. West Germany (17-12); **Group VI:** Switzerland v. Cyprus (8-11), Switzerland v. Italy (18-12), Italy v. Switzerland (23-12); **Group VII:** Belgium v. Luxembourg (22-11), France v. Luxembourg (23-12); **Group VIII:** England v. Nth. Ireland, Scotland v. England (24-2), Wales v. Nth. Ireland (28-2); Scotland v. Wales.

Two loyal men

Queens Park Rangers have a Supporters' Club — of two. Both live in Sydney and they are Robert Lovell and John Sullivan. The two ardent fans — English migrants, we presume — will fly to England early next year to watch their team play.

World-wide club Cup?

A proposal to extend the world club championship to continents outside Europe and South America will be discussed at next year's FIFA congress. This was revealed by FIFA president, Sir Stanley Rous, at a British sports writers' lunch last Sunday. Rous said African, Asian and Central American clubs were also keen to compete for the Intercontinental Cup. No mention, however, was made of the Oceanic Confederation's clubs.

Mum's the H. H. word

Helenio Herrera will no longer speak to the Press. The startling news was announced in Milan last week. The volatile Inter Milan coach, whose sensational statements over the years have rocked Italy and the world, will grant no more interviews. From now on the club's general manager, Italo Alodi, will handle all press releases.

Rangers sack manager

Scott Symon, manager of Glasgow Rangers for 13 years, has been dismissed in a shock move which had rocked Scottish soccer and staggered Rangers' thousands of fans. Symon's record with Rangers has been brilliant. Since he took over in 1954 the Glaswegians won the League championship six times, the Scottish FA Cup five times and the Scottish League Cup on four occasions.

UEFA ban on Albanians

The UEFA, Europe's top soccer body, has fined the Albanian champions Dynamo Tirana \$100, for forfeiting their first round European Champions' Cup match against Eintracht Braunschweig without any prior notice. The Albanians have also been barred from taking part in the European Cup for the next two seasons.

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PAY AS YOU WEAR

183 Liverpool St., (Opp. Hyde Pk.) 61-7366

Alick Jeffrey is out of favor with Doncaster. He was recently dropped against Chester but appeared after the interval to replace an injured colleague. And judging by the reception he got, he is still the idol of the Doncaster crowd.

Russia's two-horse race

With seven rounds remaining, the USSR First Division has developed into a two-horse race between Dynamo Moscow, Yashin's team, and Dynamo Kiev, Celtic's European Cup conquerors. The Moscovites have a five-point lead over the Ukrainians at this stage, but Kiev have two games in hand. Torpedo Moscow are a distant tenth, 18 points behind Dynamo Moscow.

● Georges Heylens, the Belgian international, is one of his country's richest soccer players. The Anderlecht star owns four sports stores, two restaurants and a delicatessen.

● A Norwich supporter, Peter Cooper, has dyed his hair in the club's colors: yellow and green. For 50 cents fellow supporters can buy a lock of his hair.

● The Sparta Prague v. Anderlecht European Champions' Cup ties will be played on November 29 in Prague and in Brussels on December 13.

● The West German soccer weekly, KICKER, recently conducted a poll amongst its readers to find the country's top player. The winner was Bayern Munich's Gert Muller, ahead of last year's poll winner, Franz Beckenbauer.

● Jose Luis Costa, president of the Spanish FA, fractured both thighs when he fell off the stairs of Valencia's clubhouse last week. Costa was about to present the club with a pennant commemorating their 50th anniversary.

● Switzerland's national team went down 1-2 to VfB Stuttgart in a "warm-up" match for their European Championship match against Cyprus this weekend.

● Yugoslavia meet Albania in their European Championship elimination match in Belgrade on Sunday. Rumanian referees will be in charge.

● Sarajevo and Manchester United will clash in the European Champions' Cup on November 15 in Yugoslavia and on November 29 in England.

● Peter Osgood, the brilliant young Chelsea centre-forward is again out of action. Osgood injured his right knee against Birmingham and had to drop out of the England under-23 team which beat Wales 2-1 at Cardiff last Wednesday week.

● Jurgen May, the famous East German middle-distance runner who defected to the West three months ago, is now the coach of Bruchkoebel, a regional West German soccer club.

● The UEFA has confirmed that the final of the European Champions' Cup will be played at Wembley on May 29 and the Cupwinners' Cup final at Rotterdam, Holland, on May 23.

● Kaj Johansson, Rangers' Swedish star, has asked for an unlisted telephone number to get away from admiring fans who were ringing him 24 hours a day.

● Kunzli, FC Zurich's international centre-forward, scored five goals in the space of 22 minutes when his team thrashed Sion 6-0 last Sunday week.

● East Germany's 1-0 victory over Hungary last week was the Germans' first in nine matches. In previous clashes, Hungary had won six times and two matches were drawn.

● Belgium "B" and France "B" played a 1-1 draw at Waregem, Belgium, last week.

● In the recent match against Spain, Czechoslovakia fielded a new goalkeeper — the burly Kramerius from Sparta Prague, seen in Sydney earlier this year.

COACH

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Pressmen invited to tour

Australian Federation, please note. The Belgian FA has joined the growing list of overseas federations which now automatically include pressmen whenever the national team goes on tour. For the match against France, 10 journalists were invited to travel to Nantes, all expenses paid. Most South American countries have followed this practice for many years.

Sparta Prague improving

Sparta Prague have improved in recent weeks. Sparta collected five points from their last three matches and are now no longer the Czechoslovakian woodenspooner. They now share second last point with Slavia, who will visit Australia next month, one point ahead of Bohemians. Sparta's resurgence coincides with the return to form of Kvasniak who has regained his place in the national team which will meet Turkey on November 15.

Dallas Tornados do well

The newly-formed American Dallas Tornados started their three-month world tour in impressive fashion. The Americans, most of whom are former Scandinavian, South American and British professionals, held Turkish champions, Fenerbahce, to a 2-2 draw in Istanbul, defeated Omonia (Cyprus) 4-2 and played a 3-3 draw with another top Turkish team, Besiktas, at Ankara. The Americans hope to play a series of matches in Australia next January to wind up their world tour.

Italy introduces doping tests

Starting this weekend, all First Division players in Italy will undergo doping tests. After each competition match three players from each team will be selected at random and required to go through a stringent series of tests. A positive swab will result in the guilty player suspended for a period which cannot be less than three months at the first offence.

Sofia clubs on top

Three Sofia clubs are fighting it out for the Bulgarian First Division title. After a two-year eclipse, when all top honors went to provincial clubs, the capital's "big three" — Lokomotiv, Levski and Red Banner (CSKA) — have a big lead over the rest of the field. Last year's champion, Trakia Plovdiv, are having a dismal season. They were eliminated in the first round of the European Cup and are already 11 points behind the current Bulgarian competition leaders.

SCOREBOARD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Italy v. Cyprus 5-0; Greece v. USSR 0-1; Austria v. Greece 1-1 (abandoned in 85th minute after a riot); Sweden v. Norway 2-0.

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP FINAL: Racing Buenos Aires v. Celtic Glasgow 2-1 (Buenos Aires, second leg); 1-0 (decider at Montevideo).

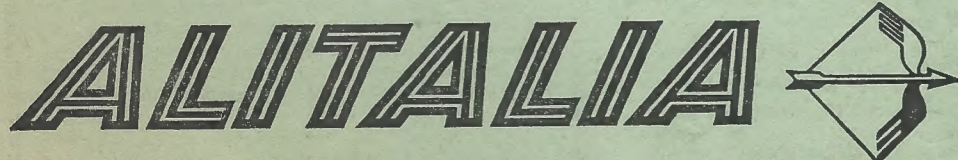
EUROPEAN FAIR CITIES' CUP: Nottingham Forest (England) v. FC Zurich (Switzerland) 2-1; Zaragoza (Spain) v. Ferencváros (Hungary) 2-1; Dundee (Scotland) v. FC Liege (Belgium) 3-1.

PORTUGAL: Sporting v. Porto 0-0; Tirsense v. Benfica 0-0; Academica v. Varzim 5-0; Sanjoanense v. Guimaraes 0-0; CUF v. Barreirense 1-0; Leixoes v. Setubal 0-1; Braga v. Belenenses 1-0.

SPAIN: Espanol v. Real Sociedad San Sebastian 2-0; Sabadell v. Barcelona 1-1; Atletico Madrid v. Malaga 4-2; Valencia v. Real Madrid 2-0; Real Betis v. Pontevedra 0-1; Cordoba v. Elche 3-0.

SWITZERLAND: Basel v. Young Boys 4-0; Grenchen v. Bellinzona 2-0; Lugano v. Biel 1-0; Lucerne v. Grasshoppers 2-1; Servette Geneva v. Sion 2-0; Young Fellows v. Chaux-de-Fonds 0-3; FC Zurich v. Lausanne 2-2.

YUGOSLAVIA: Partizan v. Olimpija 3-2; Vardar v. Dinamo Zagreb 1-1; Proleter v. Velez 2-0; Zagreb v. Zeljeznica 2-2; OFK Belgrade v. Hajduk 2-0; Maribor v. Red Star 2-2; Sarajevo v. Vojvodina 0-1; Radnicki v. Rijeka 0-1.



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• MELBOURNE STOCKTAKING FORMER GIANTS HAVE COME DOWN TO EARTH

Widely acknowledged in the late '50s and the early '60s as the two greatest soccer teams in Victoria, both JUST and Polonia have slumped badly in recent years.

Formed in 1950, it only took JUST five years to reach the top and become the best ball-playing and most successful soccer side in Victoria.

They have won all the local competitions including the league championship, the Dockerty Cup and the Ampol Cup as well as a few years ago the all-Australian Ampol Cup.

However, with the exception of their Ampol Cup win in 1966, they have in recent years been fighting a losing battle in their quest for success, have lost most of their skill and poise and are only a mere shadow of the side which made their name a household word in both Victorian and Australian soccer.

Constant changes in management, too many changes in coaching and unrest among players in recent years have played a part in the fortunes of the club.

In former years the ability of the management to encourage good class players to migrate from Yugoslavia was in no small way responsible for the many successes of the club.

For two or three seasons, up to 1965, the JUST side was almost the complete team except for the fact that they lacked a spearhead and scorer at centre-forward.

In early 1966 they remedied this with the acquisition of Tony Hughes from

The fifth in a series of articles by
BOB LOW

Hakoah at a very modest transfer fee.

However, with this problem position solved, several more were exposed in 1967 both in defence and on the extreme wings where they tried all season with a series of permutations to get two wingers of even average calibre without success.

With former player, Zdonmir Rasic now the team boss, they have definitely shown signs that they are on the way back although they failed to create any real impression in the Dockerty Cup and the Australia Cup in which they recently took part.

POLONIA KEEP SLIDING DOWN

For a team which has won the State League championship, the Dockerty Cup, the Ampol Cup and were finalists in the Australia Cup in 1963, the decline of Polonia over the past three years has been like a rapid disease without ever showing signs of being fatal.

Also formed in 1950, their success in the '60s was mainly due to the fact that they were able to bring many good class players from Poland through an arrangement with their Olympic Committee.

In recent years this source appears to have dried up or at least severely curtailed.

Three years ago Polonia, trying to emulate Mel-

bourne, introduced quite a number of players from their junior ranks into their first team.

Players included Snopkowski, Majerczak, Marmur, Olinowski and Plaskota.

To give the club their due, they have persevered with the locally produced talent and though they have had three lean years.

Part of the downfall of Polonia in the past three years has been due to the in-and-out form of their seasoned campaigners.

As an exclusively all-Polish side, the club is restricted in its choice of players.

By refusing to open their doors to good class players of other nationalities, they are handicapping themselves.

The retirement of captain-coach Vic Janczyk who has given the club great service will be a blow and the return to Poland of centre-forward Bernard Prybylski, their leading scorer in 1967, hardly enhances their prospects for next season.

As the leading Victorian club for several years, and the club who has probably brought more good class players from overseas than any other in Melbourne, the Polonia management will have to do some quick thinking and replenish their old stocks with some better class goods if they hope once again to become a force in 1968.

MELB. JUVENTUS DEFEAT HELLAS

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

Melbourne Juventus downed West Adelaide Hellas 2-1 in a friendly last Saturday at Hindmarsh Stadium before a crowd of 4,100.

The Victorians owed their win to their recuperative powers.

They trailed by a goal at half-time and looked a beaten team as they failed to match the lively Hellas for speed or precision.

Hellas, with Alex Byrne creating the openings, attacked persistently during the first half but they lost their chance of establishing a big lead by poor finishing.

Juventus dictated the pace from the start of the second half.

They equalised when makeshift centre-half, Elio Marusic, put the ball into his own goal following a goalmouth scrimmage.

Juventus scored the winning goal 12 minutes from time when Bell converted a penalty, awarded for a foul on Malloy.

Much of the fervor of a local Juventus-Hellas clash prevailed in the closing stages as Hellas battled for an equaliser.

Since both teams were runners-up in their respective leagues, this result and the recent draw between Adelaide Hellas and their Melbourne counterparts, suggests that there is little difference in standards between SA and Victoria.

Trainers of

Adelaide unite!

The newly formed SA Trainers' Association plans to conduct courses for trainers at all levels.

Their objective is to supply all future trainers for SA.

In an effort to speed the induction of trainers, the Association plan to have trainers from lower division clubs as "apprentice" assistants to state team trainers.

The Association committee is; Dr. Hardy (Chairman), H. Wells (Secretary), J. Middleton, D. Jackson, and C. Caudo.

Full-time job open

With a full-time player-coach in Mario Corti the former Adelaide-Juventus player who is reputed to be earning \$80 a week with the club, Juventus obviously intend going places as they are advertising in the national presses for a full or part-time secretary-manager.

So far there is no indication what will become of the present secretary, Gilbert Martin, who is considered in inner circles as one of the most efficient secretaries among the State League clubs.

— Bob Low

PENAROL KEEN ON 1968 VISIT

— By PAUL DEAN —

Penarol, winners of the 1966 World Club championship, are interested in playing a few matches in Australia next January.

The crack Uruguay team has intimated to the Australian Federation that they would like to include Australia in their early 1968 tour that will take in the USA and Canada.

Penarol won the unofficial "world" title last year by beating Real Madrid in the final, staged between the winner of the European Champions' Cup and its Latin American equivalent, the Copa dos Libertadores.

They usually supply about half the players to the Uruguay national team, the rest coming from the other two great Montevideo clubs, Nacional and Cerro.

However, ironically enough, their brightest shining star is not Uruguayan at all, but the Ecuadorian colored wonder, Spencer.

It was Spencer who last year knocked the stuffing out of Real Madrid after

which he was promptly put in Pele's class.

A decision whether Penarol will be seen in Australia will be taken after the return of ASF executive members.

At present most of them are overseas: Sir William Walkley and John Thomson in New Caledonia, John Barclay and Jim Connell in Saigon while secretary Ian McAndrew is now in Europe.

McAndrew is likely to spend two days in Budapest early next week where he will talk with Ferencvaros officials about the possibility of their July-August tour.

St. George - Budapest president Les Bordacs telephoned to Hungary earlier this week about McAndrew's visit.

Hungarian officials assured Bordacs that McAndrew would get the "red carpet treatment" while in Budapest.

Pan Hellenic will thrill Adelaide

— By LOU GAUTIER —

West Adelaide Hellas will continue their extensive program of friendly games when they meet Sydney Pan-Hellenic at Norwood Oval on Saturday night.

A draw against South Melbourne Hellas and a narrow loss to Melbourne Juventus has given Hellas hope that they can topple Pan-Hellenic and retain the Pantheon Cup.

Captain-coach Tom Forde, will strip against the Sydney team if his injured ankle responds to treatment.

Pan Hellenic's all-action style is sure to please Adelaide fans this weekend.

Despite the absence of Alan Westwater, possibly the outstanding player in the Sydney competition this year, now in Saigon with the national team, and Dave Johnston, the full-back with the "B" team in Noumea, Pan Hellenic will field a strong team against WA-Hellas.

Top Greek centre-half, Dounias, who has played in South Africa, and the 1965 Australian World Cup winger, Roy Blitz, in particular, could catch the eye.

South Australians may understand when they see Blitz in action why Sydney fans were shocked by the classy forward's omission from the current national team.

Blitz is one player who is determined to shine in Adelaide, as he was overlooked in preference to Adelaide wingers Pantelis and De Lyster.

Entertaining

Their mixture of Scottish, English, Greek and Australian players can be quite explosive when the mood strikes them.

As they are determined to achieve a good result in Adelaide to ensure the financial success of the return match in Sydney next Sunday week, the players won't treat the Norwood game as an "exhibition."

Pan Hellenic, anyhow, never treat any game lightly.

They always go out to win — by as big a margin as they possibly can — and are always good entertainment value.

Pan Hellenic's greatest feat was to hold the world-rated Slovan Bratislava to a 1-1 draw in Sydney in January 1966.

Six months later they played a 4-4 draw against Sing Tao (Hong Kong).

Likely teams:

Pan Hellenic: Maglis; Henson, Hignett; Mallard, Dounias, McCulloch; Blitz, Vrolyks, Smith, Karyannis, Omeros.

WA Hellas: Tsitsos; Sorlopotias, Kefaloudis; Worthington, Marusic, Irwin; Pantelis, Peterson, Zervas, Byrne, Batchelor.

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— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Monday — Coach Joe Vlasits gambled well at half-time in our first match against New Zealand.

Tied at 2-2 after 45 minutes, Vlasits replaced the more delicate Micic with the robust Schaefer and at once the Australian defence steadied.

He later also replaced the slightly injured Richards with McColl on the left wing, adding greater speed to our attack.

Australia beat New Zealand much more convincingly than the final result — 5-3 — indicates.

Apart from a shaky last 25 minutes in the first half, Australia were always in command and the score flattered the Kiwis, whose three goals had an element of luck about them.

Although the shocking state of the ground made

clever football impossible, this was a stirring thriller, played in true Anzac spirit, between two teams equally handicapped by the strange surroundings.

The match kicked-off at 2.30 p.m. local time in steamy, humid conditions.

AUSSIE FANS

Vociferously encouraged by a small contingent of Australian servicemen, Australia went into the attack straight from the kick-off and a goal seemed imminent.

In the 8th minute, Australia were one up when Baartz brought a perfect through ball from skipper Warren under control before unleashing a powerful

15-yard drive into the Kiwis' net.

Five minutes later Abonyi and Warren combined swiftly to outsmart the flat-footed New Zealand defence.

Warren broke through, passed to Abonyi who cut the ball back after a run down the sideline for the onrushing St. George captain to majestically sweep the ball past New Zealand goalie Siebert.

Leading 2-0, the Australians appeared to wilt and lost their vital midfield grip.

Micic, the right-half, was finding the heavy going not to his liking and Westwater, an inspiration in the first 15 minutes, suddenly lost his touch.

New Zealand, after 18 minutes, were back in the game as a result of Australia's temporary midfield lapses.

Their first goal, however, was hotly disputed by the Australians who claimed that Mears' shot which hit the crossbar didn't bounce over the line.

Korean referee, Duk Yong Han, however, would not be moved, and a despondent, and slightly dispirited Australian team, found itself in bother for the first time of the match.

Sensing Australia's hesitancy, the Kiwis stormed into attack and goalie Romanowicz was called upon to make a series of spectacular saves before half-time.

There was no holding the spirited New Zealanders, however, and three minutes before the interval they were on level terms.

Their right-winger, Nemeth, one of their best players, flashed a centre which Romanowicz appeared to have covered, but stopper Van Alphen wrong-footed the Adelaide 'keeper by deflecting the ball into his own net.

Australia's mid-first half slump was halted after the interval when Schaefer replaced Micic.

Schaefer proved a tower of strength, inspired renewed confidence to his shaken team-mates with some characteristically fierce tackles which revitalised the whole team.

Australia took a firm grip on the match, and it was no surprise when Abonyi scored the first of his three second half goals in the 51st minute.

The Kiwis, however, were not going to go down without a fight and they were back on level terms 12 minutes later, again through an Aussie own goal.

PENALTY

This time it was Westwater who deflected a half-hearted shot off his chest, obscuring Romanowicz.

With only 15 minutes remaining, Warren triggered Australia's fourth goal when he lobbed the ball over the defence for Abonyi to ram home a well placed goal.

The match was all over bar the shouting, but Australia pressed for more goals.

Number five came up in the 84th minute, Abonyi converting a penalty after Baartz was unceremoniously charged with the goal at his mercy.

In the 60th minute, New Zealand's dangerous centre-forward, Shaw, left the field injured and was replaced by Gowans while Australia substituted McColl for Richards.

Australia: Romanowicz; Keith, Ackerley; Micic (Schaefer), Van Alphen, Westwater; Vojtek, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, Richards (McColl).

New Zealand: Siebert; Latimore, Lake; Turner, McNab, Rennell; Nemeth, Mears, Shaw (Gowans), Ferrier (Thomas), Legg.

Crowd: 20,000.

SPEEDY HOSTS DEFEAT AUST. "B" SIDE

— From Our Special Correspondent —

NOUMEA, Monday — Australia need not feel ashamed of the 1-2 defeat of its under-23 team in the opening match of the triangular tournament against New Caledonia in Noumea yesterday.

The youthful, inexperienced Aussies were not expected to win against their much older, mature opponents.

The Australian youngsters — the oldest was barely 22 years old — were more than gallant in defeat.

The first 45 minutes, played at the ultra-modern new stadium built by the French for last year's South Pacific Games, before a small crowd of 2,000 spectators saw the New Caledonian national team in full control, largely due to their vastly superior speed.

Lack of cohesion in the first 60 minutes of last Sunday's match was clearly evident.

It took the Australians more than an hour to find their feet.

A big proportion of passes went astray before the halves and forwards linked up effectively, and it was only in the last 25 minutes that Australia came into the picture.

In the first half we had only one real scoring chance, when defender David Johnston (Pan Hellenic) raced upfield and had a sizzling shot which just grazed the upright.

A different complexion came over the game in the dying stages as Australia threw everything into at-

tack to get at least a consolation goal.

Gary Manuel, the talented Prague teenager, slipped the ball into the New Caledonian net in the 89th minute, but it was a case of too little too late.

By then, the locals had the game well in their keeping, having scored twice within 90 seconds, between the 35th and 37th minutes, through Benébig and the aptly-named Nippy.

Australia plays New Zealand in the final match of the tournament on Friday.

Team-manager, John Thomson, today will try to arrange a friendly match at the Isle of Pines, situated 160 miles off the New Caledonian mainland, for Wednesday.

Coach "Rags" Tatters feels that the team needs another run together under match conditions to reach its peak.

The Australia v. New Zealand match, however, may only have academic interest as the New Caledonians are hot favorites to defeat New Zealand on Wednesday (the result was not at hand at press time).

Whatever the result of this match, the Australians will have created a favorable impression in Noumea.

New Zealand referee Arthur Williams, who controlled Sunday's match, praised the young Aussies' technique and ball control.

"They are better footballers than the New Caledonians," he said, "but it was quite apparent they never played together."

"A well prepared Australian team would have won this tournament despite the handicap of playing against much older opponents," Williams added.

HIGHEST IN YEARS

Australia's victory over New Zealand in Saigon last Sunday was the 16th over our Tasman neighbours.

The two countries have now met 22 times, New Zealand only winning four times, with two matches drawn.

One has to go back to 1948 to find an Australian national team scoring five goals or more in a full international.

The last match of the New Zealand tour that year resulted in a 8-1 win over New Zealand.

Apart from matches against New Zealand, Australia only scored five goals in internationals against full national sides four times before.

In 1937 Australia beat the England amateur team 5-4, in 1947 we beat South Africa 5-1, and in 1938 defeated India 5-3 and 5-4.

Army canteen bonanza to Australian tourists

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Tuesday — If ever a victory served as a tonic to a team, it was our mudlarked 5-3 over New Zealand in the initial match of the Saigon Tournament.

It gave our boys their confidence back and also helped divert their attention from the outside factors which, as often as not, are not very pleasant.

Let's face it: Saigon — as SOCCER WORLD had warned — is not the best place in the world to hold a soccer tournament.

It is hot though perhaps not quite as hot as Phnom Penh, during the 1965 tour — so says double-tourist Stan Ackerley.

It's humid and the whole town stinks to high heaven of rotting garbage.

The squalor and filth is pretty depressing. Even the larger buildings, most of them built by the French during their rule, are dilapidated and run down.

The new Independence Palace where the President lives and one or two of the better class hotels, largely occupied by the Americans, are exceptions.

But not the wonderously named Golden Building Hotel where the Aussies are staying...

Saigon, as a matter of fact, is a place you feel like getting out of the moment you arrive.

I know that the whole team felt this precisely 10 minutes after reaching our hotel.

To make things worse, our first meal further dampened our spirit.

It was stewed lamb drops placidly swimming in pools of grease and a weird chicken concoction that tasted sour.

Most of the players took one hard look at the stuff — and pushed it away.

The result was an immediate confrontation between manager John Barclay and the chef d'hotel.

Dr. Corrigan was called in and it was agreed that all future menus would be in future submitted to him for approval.

After this the meals have improved.

Of tremendous help is the Australian Army Services Canteen at Cholon, three miles from the hotel.

The Army are now supplying us with fruit juice, canned Australian beer and milk.

As a result, coach Joe Vlasits has been able to step up the initially

slow tempo of training, despite the almost continuous century heat.

The spirit of the party is truly excellent. The two managers, John Barclay and Jim Connell co-operate splendidly; Barclay does most of the negotiating with officials while Connell looks after the pure administrative side.

Vlasits has become a "father image" to the players — a certain promotion from the original "uncle".

The philosopher of the party is masseur Lou Lazzari, a giant of a man in heart as well as frame and thoroughly dedicated to his job.

He dispenses the daily ration of pills for the prevention of stomach disorders, malaria and salt deficiency while Dr. Brian Corrigan, an ideal tourist who mixes easily with the boys, keeps a watchful eye on everybody — including Lou Lazzari.

One man we see fairly often is the chairman of the Organising Committee for the Vietnam Football Tournament, Colonel Sanh, also Chief of the Army Military Police.

He is reported to be one of the toughest men in the tough Vietnamese Army and is obviously feared by all who work under him.

Col. Sanh is also a champion skydiver with over 500 free falls to his credit.

Despite his fearsome reputation, the Australian party has found him extremely courteous and charming with an engaging smile and an eagerness to help in every way.

Only the other night I was in John Barclay's room when the Colonel, looking even younger than his 35 years, came in, sat down on the bed and chatted with us for over half an hour.

He was rather tired, he said simply. That day he had organised the security arrangements for the morning parade to mark the presidential inauguration, joined in a demonstration parachute jump, personally supervised the arrest of some of the terrorists known to have fired mortar shells at the Palace the evening before and then attended a meeting of the Football Tournament Committee.

After that he came to visit us for a chat and a sip of fruit juice...



FLOTTA LAURA